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July 9, 2007

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Bruce A. Chernof, M.D. 

SUBJECT: **LETTER TO CMS REGARDING READINESS FOR
CMS SURVEY AT MLK-HARBOR HOSPITAL**

Attached is the letter sent by Martin Luther King, Jr.-Harbor Hospital (MLK-H) to CMS today notifying CMS that MLK-H is inviting CMS to conduct their survey for compliance with Medicare Conditions of Participation. This letter conforms with the agreement between the County of Los Angeles and CMS that the hospital would invite the survey no later than July 9, 2007.

The survey will be conducted by CMS on an unannounced basis at any time from the time they receive this letter and before August 15, 2007 when the current CMS contract extension expires. We have every reason to believe that CMS will prefer to conduct the survey promptly so that they can deliver their findings to the hospital and, if necessary, receive a plan of correction if there are minor items from this survey that need corrective action prior to August 15, 2007.

During this survey, the principal focus will be on the status of the hospital at that moment of the survey. CMS will also refer to previous deficiencies from August 2006 forward to verify that the corrective actions identified in the plans have been taken.

In addition to this letter to CMS regarding the upcoming survey, the hospital will be submitting the required CMS form 2567's related to the last CMS survey findings. Those will be submitted on July 10, 2007. We will make a copy available to each of you and to your staff when they are submitted.

BAC:jrc

Attachment

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
HARBOR HOSPITAL

July 9, 2007

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Via Facsimile and United States Mail

Steven D. Chickering
Western Consortium Survey and Certification Officer
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Division of Survey and Certification
90 7th Street Suite 5-300(5W)
San Francisco, CA 94103-6707

Re: Martin Luther King Jr.-Harbor Hospital
Provider No. 05-0578

Dear Mr. Chickering:

Pursuant to Paragraph C.3 of the Extension Agreement for MLK-Harbor Hospital, Martin Luther King Jr.-Harbor Hospital hereby notifies you that the facility is currently in compliance, at a condition level, with all Medicare Conditions of Participation. We, therefore, invite the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to survey the hospital to verify such compliance at any time.

We understand that the survey will determine the hospital's compliance with the Medicare Conditions of Participation as of the date of the survey, and will determine whether appropriate corrective actions have been taken to remedy, by that date, the deficiencies discussed in various Statements of Deficiencies issued since August, 2006. We further understand that non-compliance prior to the date of the survey will not affect the findings unless such non-compliance has remained uncorrected.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Antionette Smith Epps
Administrator

cc: Kathleen Billingsley
Deputy Director
Department of Public Health

Bruce Chernof, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Officer
County Department of Health Services

Antionette Smith Epps
Administrator

Robert G. Splawn, MD
Interim Chief Medical Officer

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Chief Nursing Officer

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